

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

- 1-2. Canceled
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the text string comprises a "from" address.
4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the text string includes a "from" address and a text string other than the "from" address.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the text string includes a "from" address and an "urgent" flag.
- 6-7 Canceled
8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 21, further including the step of forwarding the message to an addressee.
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further including the step of the server receiving a description of the predetermined outcome criteria from the at least one computer.
- 10-14. Canceled
15. (Currently amended) A method for ~~interacting with a client computer and~~ setting outcome criteria and outcome instructions in an e-mail server having an attached annunciator,

~~connected to the client computer,~~ the method comprising:

~~logging in to the e-mail server with a user name;~~

generating a web page which accepts the outcome criteria and the outcome instructions including an outcome instruction for activating the attached annunciator;

~~receiving a configuration page from the e-mail server;~~

entering at least one of the outcome criteria and at least one of the outcome instructions into the ~~configuration~~ web page; and

~~entering an instruction for activating an annunciator, into the configuration page;~~

and

submitting the ~~configuration page~~ at least one outcome criteria and the at least one outcome instruction to the e-mail server.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome criteria comprises a "from" address.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome criteria includes a text string.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome criteria includes an "urgent" flag.

19. Canceled

20. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome instructions include the address of an addressee for receiving the e-mail message.

21. (Currently amended) In ~~a system comprising an e-mail server having an annunciator and a visible counter affixed thereto and at least one computer connected to the server,~~ a method for alerting a user to the receipt in ~~an~~ the e-mail server of an e-mail message

~~having predetermined contents~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving the e-mail message in the server;

storing the e-mail message in a mailbox corresponding to the user;

altering a count in the counter to correspond with the number of e-mail messages stored in the user's mailbox;

scanning the e-mail message stored in the mailbox to determine if a text string within the e-mail message meets a predetermined outcome criteria; and

activating ~~an~~ the annunciator to emit an acoustic or a light signal if the text string meets the predetermined outcome criteria.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A system comprising an~~ An e-mail server in a housing and at least one computer connected to the server, the server comprising:

a memory having a first at least one region for storing computer executable program code and a second region corresponding to a user mailbox;

an annunciator and a visible counter, each of which is affixed to the housing; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in said memory, wherein the program code includes:

code for configuring the e-mail server, including code for generating a web page which accepts at least one outcome criteria and at least one outcome instruction; and

code for processing a received e-mail message including:

code for storing the received e-mail message in the user's mailbox;

code for altering a count in the counter to correspond with the number of e-mail messages stored in the mailbox;

code for scanning the e-mail message stored in the user mailbox to determine if a text string within the e-mail message meets one of the outcome criteria; and

code for activating the annunciator.

~~receiving the e-mail message; storing the e-mail message in a mailbox corresponding to a user; scanning the e-mail message stored in the mailbox to determine if a text~~

~~string within the e-mail message meets a predetermined outcome criteria; and activating an annunciator if the text string meets the predetermined outcome criteria.~~

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the e-mail server receives a description of the predetermined outcome criteria from a client ~~the at least one~~ computer.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the annunciator provides a visual alert.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the annunciator provides an audio alert.

26. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the instruction for activating the annunciator provides for the annunciator output to be steady or interrupted.

27. (New) The e-mail server according to claim 22, further including code for determining whether an output of the annunciator should be steady or interrupted.